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Child Safety Seats and Seat Belts

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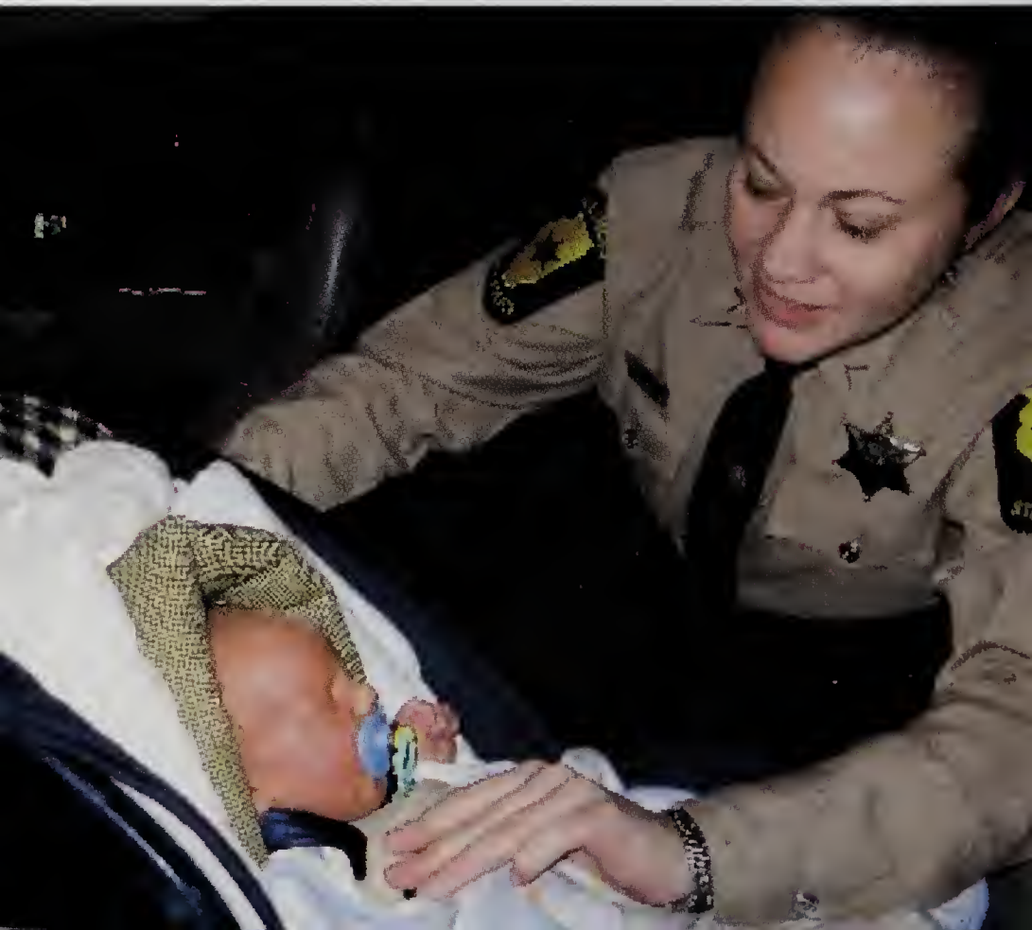
Illinois State Police

FOUR KEY SAFETY POINTS

1. Restrain your child on EVERY trip, EVERY time
2. Keep your child in the BACK SEAT
3. Use the BEST SAFETY RESTRAINT for your child's size
4. Use the safety seats and seat belts CORRECTLY



THE LAW

The Child Passenger Protection Act was established to protect the health and safety of children through the proper use of "approved child restraint systems." Significant provisions of the Act include:

Children under age eight must be secured in an approved child safety seat or booster seat.

Persons eight to 16 years of age must be secured in a properly adjusted seat belt regardless of seat position in the vehicle.

All persons under the age of 19 must be secured by a child safety seat or seat belt when the vehicle they are riding in is driven by a person under the age of 18.

Parents or legal guardians of a child under eight are responsible for providing an approved child safety seat to anyone who transports his or her child.

"Approved child restraint systems" refers to any device which meets the standards of the United States Department of Transportation.

WARNING:

A baby in a rear-facing child safety seat **should never** be placed in the front seat of a vehicle that has a passenger-side air bag. All children 12 and under should ride in the back seat.

SEAT BELTS

Wearing Your Seat Belt Correctly

- Lap belts, as well as the lap portion of a lap/shoulder belt combination, should be adjusted so that they lie low across the hips and over the upper thighs. Lap belts should not lie across the abdomen. To be most effective, they must lie over the pelvis, one of the stronger bones of the body. Adjust the lap belt so it is snug. Any slack allows the body to move around during a crash and increases the risk of injury.
- The shoulder belt should lie across the chest and over the collarbone with little, if any, slack. It should not lie across the front of the neck or face.
- Lap/shoulder seat belts, when used, reduce the risk of fatal injury to front seat car occupants by 45 percent and the risk of moderate-to-critical injury by 50 percent.
- For light truck occupants, seat belts reduce the risk of fatal injury by 60 percent.

THE LAW

Illinois Law States That:

- Each driver and front seat passenger of a motor vehicle must wear a properly adjusted and fastened seat safety belt.
- Each driver of a motor vehicle transporting a child less than 16 years of age shall secure that child in either a child restraint system or in a properly adjusted seat safety belt.
- No person may operate a 1965 or later model vehicle unless the front seats are equipped with two sets of safety belts.

The Illinois Graduated Licensing System requires all passengers under the age of 19 to wear a seat belt when riding in a vehicle being driven by a person under the age of 18. If a graduated driver's license holder is under the age of 18 when they receive their license, they must not, for the first 12 months or until they reach the age of 18, operate a vehicle with more than one passenger under the age of 20, unless the passenger(s) is a sibling(s), step-sibling(s), child, or step-child of the driver.

Under these Child Passenger Protection Act guidelines a child:

- **Under the age of eight must be secured in an approved child safety seat or booster seat.**
- **All persons between the ages of 8 and 16 are required to be in a seat belt regardless of their seat position in the vehicle.**

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CHILD SAFETY SEATS

Are You Using Your Child Safety Seat Correctly?

- Is the safety belt routed through and around the child safety seat correctly, according to the manufacturer's instructions?
- Is the seat belt tight and a locking clip being used if necessary?
- Is the infant safety seat facing backward, not forward?
- If the seat comes with a harness, is the child snugly secured in the harness?
- Is the crotch strap adjusted as short as possible?
- Do the lower straps or partial shield rest on or across the child's hips, not abdomen?
- Are the shoulder straps snug against the child's chest?
- Are the shoulder straps in the proper slots — at or BELOW the shoulder for a rear facing seat or at or ABOVE the shoulder for a forward facing seat?
- If there is a retainer strap or clip to keep the shoulder straps in place, is it secured at armpit level according to the manufacturer's instructions?
- Is the shield portion of the seat in the proper position?
- Does the booster seat have the needed upper body support — a lap/shoulder belt, tethered harness, or shield?
- Is the seat belt routed correctly on your booster seat?

To Request a Presentation or Have Your Child Safety Seat Inspected

Contact the nearest ISP Headquarters or call the Safety Education Unit at (217) 524-2525 for more information or to request a presentation.

Illinois State Police District Offices

District 1 Sterling 815/632-4010
3107 East Lincolnway, 61081-1712

District 2 Elgin 847/931-2405
777 South State Street, 60123-7689

District Chicago 847/294-4400
9511 W. Harrison St., Des Plaines, 60016-1562

District 5 Lockport 815/726-6377
16648 South Broadway Street, 60441-9546

District 6 Pontiac 815/844-1525
Post Office Box 498, 61764-0498

District 7 East Moline 309/752-4915
800 Hillcrest Road, 61244-1161

District 8 Metamora 309/383-2133
1265 Lourdes Road, 61548-9028

District 9 Springfield 217/786-7107
801 S. 7th St., Ste. 100-M, P.O. Box 19461, 62794-9461

District 10 Pesotum 217/265-0050
U.S. 45 South, P.O. Box 110, 61863-0110

District 11 Collinsville 618/346-3990
1100 Eastport Plaza, 62234-6116

District 12 Effingham 217/347-2711
401 Industrial Avenue, Suite A., 62401-2835

District 13 DuQuoin 618/542-2171
1391 South Washington St., 62832-3841

District 14 Macomb 309/833-4046
1600 N. Lafayette Street, 61455-9194

District 15 Downers Grove 630/241-6800
2700 Ogden Avenue, 60515-1703

District 16 Pecatonica 815/239-1152
16450 West State Road, 61063-9202

District 17 LaSalle 815/224-1171
IL Rt. 351 North, 61301-1047

District 18 Litchfield 217/324-4900
102 IL Rt. 16, 62056-1574

District 19 Carmi 618/382-4606
919 IL Highway 14, 62821-2309

District 20 Pittsfield 217/285-2034
Post Office Box 32, 62363-0032

District 21 Ashkum 815/698-2395
Post Office Box 147, 60911

District 22 Ullin 618/845-3740
1154 Shawnee College Road, 62992-2113

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